CLAIMS

IN THE CLAIMS

1.   (Currently Amended) A communication method for transmitting data from a server to a requesting computer, said method comprising steps of:

receiving a request for a specified data item at the server, the specified data item to be delivered in its entirety prior to being accessed;

receiving a speed indication signal at the server from the requesting computer, wherein the speed indication signal comprises an indicated speed of transmission of the specified data item; and

limiting an average rate of transmission of at least a portion of the specified data item across a data link to the requesting computer to be not greater than the indicated speed, wherein the indicated speed is less than the data rate of the data link and less than the data rate capacity of the server.

2.   (Currently Amended) A communication method according to claim 1 in which the limiting step comprises substeps of:

determining a block size based at least on the average transmission rate;

determining a period based at least on the average transmission rate, wherein the period is longer than the period required to transmit the block size at the data rate of the data link; and

transmitting a plurality of blocks of data, each of the blocks having the block size and being transmitted at intervals substantially equal to the time period.

3.   (Currently Amended) A communication method according to claim 1, further comprising steps of:

accessing a remote computer indicated in an address included in the request, wherein the remote computer is not one of the server and the requesting computer; and

receiving, at the server, the first specified data item from the remote computer.

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4. (Currently Amended) A communication method according to claim 1 further comprising steps of reading the specified data item from a memory associated with the server.

5. (Currently Amended) A communication method for transmitting data from a server to a requesting computer, said method comprising the steps of:

accepting a user request for a specified data item at a client computer, the specified data item to be delivered in its entirety prior to being accessed;

accepting a user input speed setting at the client computer;

generating a schedule for issuing pause transmission and resume transmission signals based on the user input speed setting, wherein the schedule limits an average transmission rate of transmission of at least a portion of the specified data item across a data link to the requesting computer to be not greater than the user input speed, wherein the user input speed is less than the data rate of the data link and the data rate capacity of the server;

transmitting the user request for a specified data item to a server computer; and

sending a sequence of pause transmission and resume transmission signals from the client computer to a server computer according to the schedule.

6. (Currently Amended) A communication system for transmitting data from a server to a requesting computer comprising:

a means for receiving a request for a specified data item at the server, the specified data item to be delivered in its entirety prior to being accessed;

a means for receiving a speed indication signal at the server from the requesting computer, wherein the speed indication signal comprises an indicated speed of transmission of the specified data item; and
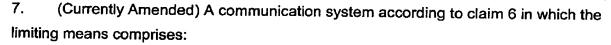
a means for limiting an average rate of transmission of at least a portion of the specified data item across a data link to the requesting computer to be not greater than the indicated speed, wherein the indicated speed is less than the data rate of the data link and less than the data rate capacity of the server.

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7.   (Currently Amended) A communication system according to claim 6 in which the limiting means comprises:

a means for determining a block size based at least on, the average transmission rate;

a means for determining a period based at least on, the average transmission rate, wherein the period is longer than the period required to transmit the block size at the data rate of the data link;

a means for transmitting a plurality of blocks of data, each of the blocks having the block size and being transmitted at intervals substantially equal to the time period.

8.   (Currently Amended) A communication system according to claim 6, further comprising:

a means for accessing a remote computer indicated in an address included in the request, wherein the remote computer is not one of the server and the requesting computer; and

a means for receiving, at the server, the first specified data item from the remote computer.

9.   (Currently Amended) A communication system according to claim 6 further comprising means for reading the specified data item from a memory associated with the server computer.

10.   (Currently Amended) A communication system for transmitting data from a server to a requesting computer comprising:

a means for accepting a user request for a specified data item at a client computer, the specified data item to be delivered in its entirety prior to being accessed;

a means for accepting a user input speed setting at the client computer;

a means for generating a schedule for issuing pause transmission and resume transmission signals based on the user input speed setting, wherein the schedule limits a transmission rate of transmission of at least a portion of the specified data item

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across a data link to the requesting computer to be not greater than the user input speed, wherein the <u>user</u> input speed is less than the data rate of the data link and <u>less than</u> the data rate capacity of the server;

a means for transmitting the user request for a <u>specified</u> data item to a server computer; and

a means for sending a sequence of pause transmission and resume transmission signals from the client computer to a server computer according to the schedule.

11. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium containing programming instructions for data communication comprising programming instructions for:

receiving a request for a <u>specified</u> data item at a server<u>, the specified data item to be delivered in its entirety prior to being accessed</u>;

receiving a speed indication signal at the server from the requesting computer, wherein the speed indication signal comprises an indicated speed of transmission <u>of the specified data item</u>; and

limiting an average rate of transmission of at least a portion of the <u>specified</u> data item across a data link to the requesting computer to be not greater than the indicated speed, wherein the indicated speed is less than the data rate of the data link and the data rate capacity of the server.

12. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium according to claim 11 wherein the programming instruction for limiting comprises programming instructions for:

determining a block size based on, at least, the average transmission rate;

determining a period based on, at least, the average transmission rate<u>, wherein the period is longer than the period required to transmit the block size at the data rate of the data link</u>; and

transmitting a plurality of blocks of data, each of the blocks having the block size and being transmitted at intervals substantially equal to the time period.

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13.   (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium according to claim 11, further comprising programming instructions for:

accessing a remote computer indicated in an address included in the request, wherein the remote computer is not one of the server and the requesting computer; and

receiving, at the server, the first <u>specified</u> data item from the remote computer.

14.   (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium according to claim 11, further comprising programming instructions for reading the <u>specified</u> data item from a memory associated with the server computer.

15.   (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium containing programming instructions for data communication comprising programming instructions for:

accepting a user request for a <u>specified</u> data item at a client computer, the <u>specified data item to be delivered in its entirety prior to being accessed</u>;

accepting a user input speed setting at the client computer;

generating a schedule for issuing pause transmission and resume transmission signals based on the user input speed setting, wherein the schedule limits a transmission rate of transmission of at least a portion of the <u>specified</u> data item across a data link to the requesting computer to be not greater than the user input speed, wherein the <u>user</u> input speed is less than the data rate of the data link and the data rate capacity of the server;

transmitting the user request for a <u>specified</u> data item to a server computer; and

sending a sequence of pause transmission and resume transmission signals from the client computer to a server computer according to the schedule.

16. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the transmission rate is not related to a speed that is associated with the <u>specified</u> data item.

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17. (Currently Amended) The communication system of claim 6, wherein the transmission rate is not related to a speed that is associated with the <u>specified</u> data item.

18. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium according to claim 11, wherein the transmission rate is not related to a speed that is associated with the <u>specified</u> data item.

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